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4 Jun 02
R. Tallis

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: K. WELCHMAN *et al.*

Attorney Docket No: 20002.0093

Application No.: 09/811,579

Group Art Unit: 2877

Filed: March 20, 2001

Examiner: S. Nguyen

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
AUTOMATED GAME BALL INSPECTION

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed December 26, 2001, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks for entry and consideration during the examination of the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A marked up version of the revised paragraph, showing insertions and deletions, is included in Appendix A. Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 14-³⁰~~32~~ with the following:

A1
The automated inspection system of the present invention is comprised of an imaging system which is adapted to account for unique surface properties, such as contours, of a golf ball to analyze various characteristics of a surface treatment (e.g., contouring or coloring) of the golf ball. In a preferred embodiment, the automated inspection system of the present invention is used to detect and analyze a surface treatment, such as the application of a coating or paint to the surface of a golf ball, affecting the cosmetic or aesthetic appearance of the golf ball. For example, the distribution (e.g., uniformity and symmetry), adequacy (e.g., degree, thickness, or quantity), and accuracy (e.g., the specific form of a printed symbol) with which a surface treatment has been applied to the surface of a golf ball may be viewed by an imaging system. The imaging system transmits a clear, undistorted image of the ball being inspected to an analyzer, which analyzes various characteristics of the substance that has been applied to the golf ball.

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01 FC:103 180.00 CH
02 FC:102 84.00 CH

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